



Special Edition: Your Schools

Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent

Summer 2008

Thornton Township High Schools District 205 Open Letter To The Community

Dear community member,

The 2007-2008 school year has successfully come to a close. The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education and Administration are encouraged with the progress the District made this year. With very short time-frames, working with parents, faculty and community members, the District was able to collaboratively accomplish several goals. First, comprehensive school and district improvement plans (SIP and DIP) were created and submitted within state mandated timelines. Second, the Board of Education approved a new bell schedule for the 2008-2009 school year that will replace the current three-block schedule (more on reverse side). Third, the Board of Education passed a balanced budget with all outstanding bond debt projected to be retired within the next seven years. This puts the District in a position to explore much needed capital improvement projects. However, with the implementation of a new bell schedule fiscal challenges will still exist.

This summer the District is working to implement the District Improvement and Restructuring plans at the start of the school year. In addition to the bell schedule, important initiatives include:

- **Reading:** A required reading course has been developed for all freshmen. This course will provide students skills and strategies for comprehension, the reading process, and reading for a variety of purposes, including text books, graphics, tests, and nonfiction.
- **Math:** The double-dose Algebra course is being developed to provide students with needed skills for each unit. Some skills emphasized are: time, measurement and money, the calculator, common vocabulary, note taking, and text book reading.
- **Special Education:** Special Programs is ensuring that students with special needs have all appropriate services by reviewing IEPs this summer to ensure they are aligned to the new schedule, and working on new resources to assist students within special programs.
- **Safe & Secure Learning Environment:** The district is working to finalize a plan that includes improved security procedures, proactive interventions to educate students on positive choices behaviors, and a more efficient and supportive attendance system.
- **Assessment:** Content area teams are working to refine common assessments so data can be analyzed district-wide on students meeting standards. In addition, math and reading interim assessments given monthly to all students are being revised. Pre- and post- course assessments, and a pre-and post- reading assessment, are also being addressed.

District 205 is moving forward to improve student achievement with the plans that have been developed with all stakeholders' input over the course of the 2007-2008 school year.

As the summer continues and we look toward next school year, the District would like to welcome two new additions to the administrative team; Thornwood High School Principal, Darcelle Williams and Director of Accountability Research and Information Services, Paige Dague. Also, congratulations to Thornwood graduate, Keenen Twymon, who ended his speech team career by finishing 8th in Original Oratory. His event started with 235 competitors. Teammate Johari Mackey finished in the top 30 of her event, Humorous Interpretation. The National Forensic League National Speech Tournament was held in Las Vegas on June 16-20. Twymon and Mackey were coached by Head Coach, Cheryl Frazier.

Over



New Bell Schedule and Re-Enrollment Process

Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent

NEW 2008-2009 District 205 Student Class Schedule

| PERIOD | TIME | DURATION |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | FROM – TO | |
| 1 | 7:30 – 8:20 | 50 minutes |
| 2 | 8:25 – 9:15 | 50 minutes |
| 3 | 9:20 – 10:15 | 55 minutes (announcements) |
| 4A lunch | 10:20 – 10:45 | 25 minutes |
| 4B | 10:50 – 11:10 | 20 minutes |
| 4C lunch | 11:15 – 11:40 | 25 minutes |
| 5D | 11:45 – 12:05 | 20 minutes |
| 5E lunch | 12:10 – 12:35 | 25 minutes |
| 6F | 12:40 – 1:00 | 20 minutes |
| 6G lunch | 1:05 – 1:30 | 25 minutes |
| 7 | 1:35 – 2:25 | 50 minutes |
| CP | 2:30 – 3:00 | 30 minutes |

The 2008-2009 School Year Residency Verification Process Has Changed

Starting July 21, 2008 and continuing through the end of *Registration*, all residency verification for returning students for each school in District 205 will be held in the T-Building Cafeteria at Thornton Township High School. All students must verify residency in District 205 as a requirement for completing the registration process.

From July 21st - Aug 6th- residency verification will be held Mondays & Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., only. Residency verification will not be available on Thursdays and Fridays during this period. During the week of registration, residency verification will be available August 8th, 11th, 12th and 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and August 14th and 15th between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please contact your respective school's Outreach Office for more information at the numbers below.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Thornton Township High School | 708-225-4211 |
| Thornridge High School | 708-271-4446 |
| Thornwood High School | 708-225-4879 |

Thornton Township High School 15001 Broadway Harvey, IL 60426